

Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat *Incorporated.*

JULY 1989.

EXCURSION - NEWS SHEET

- Meeting : July 7th. Film/video: Natural History Subjects.
- Meeting : August 4th. Mr.N.Marriot - Grevilleas.
- Excursion : July 9th. Tullaroop Reservoir - H.Burgess.
- Excursion : August 5th. Linton Nature Reserve - Working bee - G.Binns.



President;	Dr.F.Harrap	Ph. 053 301651
Vice Pres.	Miss H.Burgess	312210
Secretary:	Mr.G.Binns	332282
Treasurer:	Mrs.F.Williamson	327631
Editor:	Mr.A.Darlow	413378

Meetings as specified are held at the School of Mines and Industries, Lydlard Street Stn., Art Building, commencing at 7.30 p.m.
EXCURSIONS, AS SPECIFIED, COMMENCE FROM CROCKERS, cnr. STURT AND ARMSTRONG STS., BALLARAT, at 9.30 a.m. for FULL DAY OUTINGS OR AT 1.30 p.m. for HALF DAY.

For Your Diary

- July 13th. 8p.m. Collingwood Town Hall. A public meeting is to be held on 'Greenhouse Solutions'.
- July 25th. Committee Meeting at 55 Marie Crescent, Wendouree at 8p.m.
- July 28th.- 30th. Club Camp-out at Serbroke River, Girl Guide House, Port Campbell.
- Sept, 8th.- 10th. W.V.F.N.A. Early Spring Camp-out and meeting at Castle-maine. Details of programme and accommodation now available.
- Sept. 23rd. 24th. Anglesea Wildflower Show by Anzair Inc. Sat. 10a.m.- 5.30p.m. Sun. 10a.m.- 5p.m. See brochure for the many features.

Field Reports - June Meeting.

- P.Murphy. - at Flaxmill Swamp. 18 Cattle Egrets. Fine specimens of Plough-share Wattle in bush block on outskirts of N.Ballarat.
- G.Binns - Little Eagle over N.Ballarat. Grey Fantail in Pleasant St. garden.
- H.Burgess - White-backed Swallows at Tullaroop. Many Autumn Greenhoods at Stawell.
- L.Fink. - Masked Lapwing nesting, with eggs, on Eastern Oval, Ballarat.
- K.Hammond. - at Muckleford Forest. Good population of Heath Wrens in evidence. B.O.C.A. excursions listed some 51 bird species including Hooded Robin, Diamond Firetails. Many Autumn Greenhoods.
- F.Harrop. - Common Bronzewings in Mt. Helen recreation area.

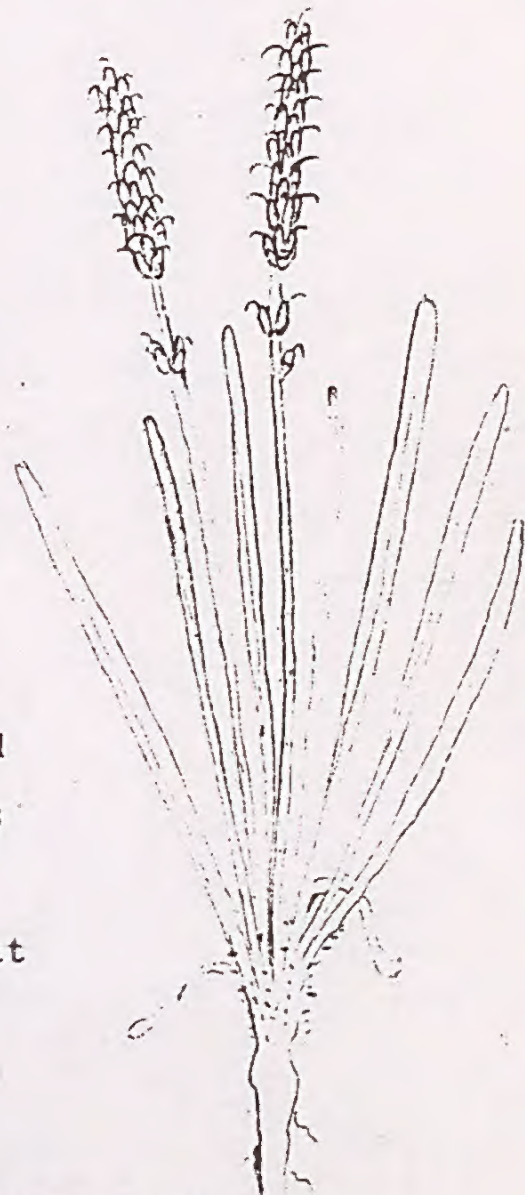
Anchor Plant Project

A revised planting policy has been formulated with plans for planting out onto three sites before Winter. Twenty seedlings have been planted out at Lal Lal, Snizort (Creswick) and Mooramong (W.of Skipton), protected by stock fences and rabbit guards. An additional twenty will be planted at each site and at Chepstowe in the Spring. Club members have combined with members of the Steering Committee in the task and we have been fortunate in having fair weather conditions for our working days on the rather exposed sites. The final report to the funding authority (The Australian Bicentennial Authority) is to be forwarded by the end of this month.

PLANTS OF THE BALLARAT DISTRICT

Recently some specimens of a plantain species were found growing in grassland at Haddon and have now been identified as the Narrow-leaved Plantain - *Plantago gaudichaudii*.

The plants we found were approximately 28cms high and the cylindrical spikes were more or less 7cms long with some of the lower fruits widely spaced and the upper fruits much more compactly arranged.



According to Black's "Flora of S.A.", *Plantago gaudichaudii* is characterised by its long narrow leaves (20-40 times longer than broad) which are usually glabrous except for fine brown hairs at the base of the leaves. This was so with our specimens.

The Narrow-leaved Plantain has been recorded by Cliff Beauglehole for only two places in the Ballarat Study Area - both for the basalt plains west of Ballarat but the Haddon specimens are a new species for an area so close to Ballarat.

P.M.

Noxious Weeds Drawing Competition.

Thank you entrants.

For the present competition you can select your own
Natural History topic. Ed.



H.B.

Alison Dalman.



Blackberries

Heather Dalman



Thistles

NOXIOUS WEEDS. George Watts C.F@l formerly Lands
Dep.

George has been in Ballarat for 12 years and during that time there has been a lot of alterations in his job, as a 'weed killer' he has not always seen eye to eye with Conservation groups as a lot of noxious weeds are good habitats for birds. Nowadays there is a lot more consideration given to habitat because as well as vermin there is a host of native animals that live in the same places.

What are our noxious weeds?-- There are about 100 proclaimed; three are Australian Natives, these are Chinese Scrub, *Acacia paradoxa* and Dodder, when they become a harbour for vermin.

Noxious weeds have-- (1) a very efficient method of spreading, (2) mechanical damage to animals, (3) damage to the ecology, and destroying native plants or pastures.

Some weeds choke waterways eg alligator weed and water Hyacinth, others are from fish tanks that have been emptied into rivers.

One weed is noted for its habit of taking over areas with long runners and sharp thorns and is seen in abundance along creeks and river giving cover to vermin and other weeds. These are Blackberries; Which also make lovely jam and pies.

Others, like Californian Burr and N'Gurra Burr, infest sheep and do a great deal of damage, in high rainfall areas. Many of these plants are Daisie like, which isn't surprising.

The You Yangs, and indeed the whole Ballarat area, is the adopted home of African Boneseed. This pest also grows around the shoreline.

Many of the weeds shown by George have very beautiful flowers. Salvation Jane or Patterson's curse is one of the most beautiful sights I have seen

Some plants are parasites on other plants, like the Dodder Laurels.

One Grass to come under this heading is African Feathergrass, many of our noxious weeds come from Africa which is not a surprise.

Cattle on their way to Australia were often off loaded at the Cape, then reloaded on board sailing ships with a large quantity of fresh fodder.

The climate suited these immigrants, and others that came from California; again the conditions here suited them.

Many of the slides we saw were of weeds with handsome foliage and very nice flowers. Other slides showed the resultant take over by these by these pests.

When we think of weeds in the garden, these are a different. They are very often plants out of their environment. The referred to in the talk were of the noxious variety.

George was an interesting speaker, showing us what happens when plants get out of control, and was thanked by Ken Hammond in the usual manner. Discussion was carried on over supper.

L.F.



Greater Glider.

Petauroides volans.

Acknowledgements to Dept. of C.F. and L.

A small family of trees and shrubs (herbs) found in temperate and tropical regions. The garden shrub, *Daphne*, belongs to this family.

There is only one genus found near Ballarat, namely, *Pimelea* - " Rice-flowers ". This name is derived from the Greek word for " fat", probably alluding to the fleshy cotyledons.

There are six genera and one hundred species native to Australia and nearly all these species belong to the genus *Pimelia*.

The inflorescence of *Pimelia* is a cluster of flowers in terminal heads, surrounded by four or more involucral bracts. The leaves are entire, often small, and are without stipules. A floral tube, derived from the receptacle, is often several millimetres long. At the top there are four white or yellow sepals. There are no petals and two stamens are inserted near the top of the floral tube. The ovary is superior, with a single loculus containing one pendulous ovule. The fruit is a nut or sometimes a drupe, that is enclosed in the persistent lower part of the floral tube.

